



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2006

MAYOR JERRY SANDERS
PRESS RELEASE

SANDERS ORDERS SUPREME COURT APPEAL ON MT. SOLEDAD CASE

CITY ATTORNEY TO FILE WRIT BY NEXT TUESDAY

Fulfilling his promise to pursue every possible option to retain the integrity of the Mt. Soledad War Memorial, Mayor Jerry Sanders today requested that City Attorney Mike Aguirre file a **Petition for a Writ of Certiorari** with the U.S. Supreme Court. The Mayor consulted with the City Attorney this morning about the issue. Mr. Aguirre expects the Petition to be filed by his office Tuesday of next week at no additional cost to the City. The Petition is a document that requests the Supreme Court review the decision of a lower court. Should the Supreme Court decide to hear the appeal, they would grant a **Writ of Certiorari**.

The Mayor was disappointed by the Appeals Court's decision yesterday. He clearly believes that the Mt. Soledad War Memorial is part of our history as a City; that it is part of our cultural fabric.

Throughout his involvement in the process, the Mayor has made clear that he intends to pursue all options to preserve the integrity of the Memorial, including conferring with members of our Congressional Delegation and the White House regarding this issue. However, the Mayor has also made clear that he has no intention of violating Judge Thompson's order if a resolution cannot be reached by August 1st. That order requires the City to take down the cross atop the Mt. Soledad War Memorial on August 1, 2006 or face fines of \$5,000 per day. Those fines would begin accruing on August 2, 2006.

"We are a society of laws and we must respect the integrity of a court's decision," said Mayor Sanders

###